

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A self-restrained pressure gasket for insertion within an annular groove provided in a bell end opening of a female plastic pipe capable of both joining and sealing the female plastic pipe to a mating male plastic pipe having an interior surface and an exterior surface, the bell end defining an end face at the opening, the gasket comprising:

an annular gasket body made of a resilient elastomeric material, the annular gasket body having an inner circumferential region and an outer circumferential region, wherein an end of the gasket body lies substantially at the end face at the opening;

a hardened ring located within the material of the gasket body so that the ring is at least partially embedded within the resilient elastomeric material, the hardened ring having an inner circumferential surface, an outer circumferential surface, front and rear end faces and opposing sides, the hardened ring having a single slit at one circumferential location to allow for expansion and contraction of the ring;

at least one row of teeth located on the inner circumferential surface of the hardened ring for engaging selected points on the exterior surface of the mating male plastic pipe.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The self-restrained pressure gasket of claim 1, wherein the hardened ring is located within a pocket provided in the elastomeric material of the gasket body, whereby the hardened ring is allowed limited movement during expansion and contraction of the gasket.

Claim 3^{vi}(currently amended): A pipe joint comprising:

a female plastic pipe having a bell end opening with an annular groove for receiving a sealing gasket, the bell end opening being sized to receive the spigot end of a mating male plastic pipe having an interior surface and an exterior surface, the bell end defining an end face at the opening;

a self-restrained pressure gasket located within the annular groove provided in the bell end opening

of the female plastic pipe capable of both joining and sealing the female plastic pipe to the male plastic pipe, the gasket comprising:

an annular gasket body made of a resilient elastomeric material, the annular gasket body having an inner circumferential region and an outer circumferential region, a forward extent and a rearward extent, wherein an end of the gasket body lies substantially at the end face at the opening;

a segmented ring formed of a plurality of hardened ring segments located on the forward extent of the gasket body, the hardened ring segments being attached to the material of the gasket body, each of the ring segments having an inner circumferential surface, an outer circumferential surface, front and rear end faces and opposing sides;

at least one row of teeth located on the inner circumferential surface of at least selected ones of the ring segments for engaging selected points on the exterior surface of the mating male plastic pipe; and

a circumferential gland fitting sized to be received about the outer surface of the mating male plastic pipe, the gland fitting having a forward lip region which contacts and compresses the gasket body as the joint is assembled.